

Prof. Ferran Sagarra,

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Ferran Sagarra (1952), Arch ETSAB (1976), Dr UPC (1991), Professor at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, School of Architecture of Barcelona (ETSAB), Polytechnic University of Catalonia UPC, is currently the Director (Dean) of the School. He has held several academic and representative posts, both at the School and at the UPC and taught at the Institute of Urban Planning, University Montreal and in the Politecnico di Milano, has been lecturer in international laboratories and workshops. He was also a promoter of the URBAL program on access to land and social housing with metropolitan administrations in Europe and Latin America. He was a coordinator of the European program "Les places, un patrimoine européen" with six European universities and institutions. Actually coordinating COHABITAT, A Network on sustainability in Mediterranean architecture and urban development, with Toulouse and Lisbon universities. Sagarra was a curator of the Spanish Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennial (IMPURE-UPC). He was a consultant to the councillor of Housing, Barcelona City Council from 1995 to 2007 and councillor of the Institute for Metropolitan Institute for the Development Land and Property Management (IMPSOL) from 1982 since 1994. He has served as consultant to the editorial board of journals. He designed and built homes, equipment and civil urban works, and has developed several structural or special urban and territorial plans. He is the author of some books and chapters on the history of urbanism in Barcelona and on urban culture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries including the work of Barcelona's city planner, Ildefons Cerdà.

Ildefons Cerdà. Barcelona city design and public health**Some words on the work of Ildefons Cerdà**

Ildefons Cerdà i Sunyer (1815 - 1876) was the progressive Catalan urban planner who designed the 19th-century "extension" of Barcelona called the "Eixample" (currently the centre of Barcelona). When Barcelona, following public pressure, was allowed to demolish its city walls, Cerdà realized the need to plan the city's expansion and developed a modern integrated concept so that the "new extension" would become a modern, easy to live and healthy urban space unlike the congested, epidemic-prone old town within the walls, known at the time as "the Catalan Manchester". His unprecedented urban plan was developed at a time when there was an urgent need for solving an emerging social and environmental crisis of urban centers, characterized by urban crowding, rapid city growth, unhealthy housing and high mortality in the big towns of Europe. That's why he decided to write what is nowadays considered the first modern Urban Theory, focusing on key needs such as that of natural lighting and ventilation in homes, influenced by the sanitarian movement of that time, the need of effective waste disposal including good sewage system, and the need of promoting an easy and efficient movement of people, goods, energy, and information, as well as for green spaces in people's surroundings. His plans were applied in a realistic way, increasing from the very beginning the low height of buildings or, later on, implementing industrial and mercantile facilities in the place of the planned gardens within every city block. His vision of a network-oriented approach was far ahead of his time and was crucial in the development of Barcelona as a modern city until today. His plan shaped the today's 'Eixample', what's to say, provided the city with a strong layout to respond to future needs.